

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Clifford-Wirrick House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street &amp; number 105 South Second Street

not for publication

city, town Clarksville

vicinity of

state Missouri code 29 county Pike code 163

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Ralph Huesing and Vernon Hughes

street &amp; number 755 Washington

city, town Florissant

vicinity of

state Missouri 63031

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds

street &amp; number Pike County Courthouse

city, town Bowling Green

state Missouri 63334

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri State Historical Survey

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1983

federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ localdepository for survey records Mo. Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176

city, town Jefferson City

state Mo. 65102

## 7. Description

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☒ unaltered  
☐ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Clifford-Wirick House at 105 South Second Street in Clarksville, Missouri, is a clapboarded one-story residence in a vernacular Italianate style. The house is irregularly shaped, with spaces projecting to south, east and north and a lower wing to the rear.

The front gable, which forms the north half of the street elevation, has returns. It stands above two windows; like most of the others in the house, they are two-over-two and have cornice moldings. A two-bay porch across the south part of the facade gives access to the house. (Photos 1 and 2) It has beveled posts with capital moldings, above which a curved impost gives the spans between the effect of flattened arches. Similar capital moldings connect the vertical strips at the corners of the house with the plain frieze that runs under the projecting cornice. On the south side, a three-bay bay-window extends beyond the pedimented gable. Another roof ridge runs at right angles from the south gable to a west-facing gable with returns. One additional window punctuates the south wall. Three windows on the north wall lead to a two-bay by two-bay projection with details matching the main part of the house. The rest of the west end of the house follows this lower roofline. Apparently west and southwest porches were enclosed at an early date, the latter to create a kitchen. The original cross-gable roofline was then altered; a gambrel was built at the rear to eliminate one of the valleys. It is not visible from the front but suggests a second story from points of view to the rear. (Photo 4)

Inside, the house is distinguished by its high ceilings and tall doorcases with transoms. Most of the moldings are of the rounded type often associated with the Italianate style, but those in the dining room are of the more rectilinear Greek Revival type, complete with pedimented tops. Chimney pieces, which are original, also contrast: arched, false marble in the southwest parlor, with a cast-iron grate, and white-painted wood in the dining room, now closed. (photos 5, 6, and 7) Original wall colors are evident where wallpaper has been removed: dark green in the dining room, dark rose in the southwest room. Little has been altered except in the rear center room, which was once bounded west and south by porches but is now an interior room. It has been converted to a bathroom, with a large storage room built into one corner and a diagonal wall at the northeast, creating a corridor to the north projecting room.

The lot rises steeply from the street and is partly supported by a stone retaining wall which runs the length of the block. This wall was later faced with concrete, which is now leaning forward sharply. The more gradual rise of the main portion of the lot still puts the front door nine steps above ground while the back door is almost at ground level. Another steep rise, terraced as a garden, leads to the alley right-of-way along the west edge of the property. The grounds are extensively planted, but have become overgrown.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	

Specific dates built c. 1878 Builder/Architect B. P. Clifford

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Clifford-Wirick House is a one-story clapboard structure in a vernacular Italianate style, a type once common in Missouri towns and usually identified as a working-class residence. The Clifford-Wirick House is significant first because, at a time when nearly all such houses have been disfigured by "home improvements," it is almost entirely unaltered, and second because its surprisingly spacious rooms and distinguished interior detailing reflect its associations with two men of considerable importance to Clarksville's nineteenth-century economy.

Carole Rifkind is one of the few authors of style guides to treat buildings that are less than high style. In A Field Guide to American Architecture (New York: New American Library, 1980), she uses the term Vernacular Victorian as a catch-all for houses that seem to fit none of the high-style definitions. This particular house carries on features of the Italianate villa of the 1850's in its irregular, picturesque massing, and in the details of its front porch, but it seems never to have had the omnipresent brackets of that style. The proportions of the gables, pedimented on the south side and with returns elsewhere, go back even farther to the Greek Revival style. Often overlooked by surveys and traditional preservationists, vernacular architecture in original condition is now increasingly rare.

Although Clarksville may have been settled as early as 1817, the land was purchased from the U. S. government only in 1823, by John Miller and Richard Graham.<sup>1</sup> Two years later they sold this property, lot 123, to John W. Johnson or Johnston.<sup>2</sup> Like other river towns, Clarksville began to prosper in the 1840's. It was incorporated in 1847. Substantial houses were built from about that time onward through the decades before and after the Civil War.<sup>3</sup> Lot 123, tied up in the Johnson estate, remained undeveloped until purchased at a tax sale in 1875 by Benjamin Patton Clifford. Clifford obtained clear title to the property three years later and may have built the present house at that time.

Clifford, born in 1817 in Kentucky, came to Clarksville with his family in 1833.<sup>4</sup> In 1846 he opened a store with his brother John M. Clifford. A decade later he was one of three builders of the Imperial Mill, a flour mill that sold Imperial brand flour as far away as New England. It was later reorganized as Clifford, Roberts & Co. In 1857 Clifford became cashier, which in those days meant manager, of a bank in Louisiana, Missouri, a few miles north of Clarksville. He served in the state legislature in 1862 and 1864. In 1868 he organized his own bank, B. P. Clifford & Co., which gave him influence over most of Clarksville's business life. He married twice and built houses for at least three of his eleven children, a proclivity which suggests that he may also have built this house. Located diagonally opposite the main business street in the town, 105 South Second would have been an ideal location for one of Clifford's businessmen sons or sons-in-law.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Clifford, Charles V. "The Clarksville of Yesterday" (scrapbook of articles originally published in the Clarksville Sentinel, 1933). Clarksville Public Library.
2. The History of Pike County, Missouri. Des Moines, Iowa: Mills & Co., 1883.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name "Clarksville, Mo.-III."

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 1 5 6 8 0 4 8 0 4 3 5 9 7 6 0  
Zone Easting Northing

B                          
Zone Easting Northing

C                                             

D                        

E                                             

F                        

G                                             

H                        

Verbal boundary description and justification Lot 123 of the Town of Clarksville, bounded on the east by South Second Street (State Highway 79), on the north and south by town lots, and on the west by alley right-of-way.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state Missouri code 29 county Pike code 163

state    code    county    code   

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Esley Hamilton

organization   

date May 1983

street & number 1169 Ursula Avenue

telephone (314) 727-0428

city or town University City

state Missouri 63130

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

   national    state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature John Kavel for P.A.C. Fred A. Dwyer

title Director, Department of Natural Resources and  
State Historic Preservation Officer

date 6/8/84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date   

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date   

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS Use Only  
Received \_\_\_\_\_  
Date dictated \_\_\_\_\_

Continuation sheet CLIFFORD-WIRICK HOUSE

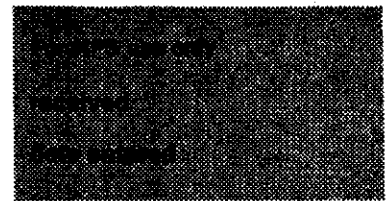
Item number 7

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Second Street, although now the main artery through Clarksville, is still primarily a residential street. Diagonally opposite this house is the historic business center of the town, a cross-street running east to the Mississippi River. Although the town has a number of distinguished nineteenth-century brick houses, this is virtually the only frame house to have escaped serious alteration.

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Continuation sheet CLIFFORD-WIRICK HOUSE

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Within a year of Clifford's death (his will was filed February 28, 1881), the property was sold to John A. Wirick, a business associate of the Clifford Family. Born in Pennsylvania in 1843, Wirick had come to Clarksville in 1869 as manager of the Missouri Vinegar Manufacturing Works.<sup>5</sup> This business had been started in 1866 by Henry Stark Carroll (a son-in-law of B. P. Clifford) and Fred Haywood next to Haywood's saw mill on the riverfront. As the hills around Clarksville were more and more devoted to apple orchards, the vinegar factory prospered, building additions in 1870 and 1872. In 1881 Wirick became half-owner of the business, then called the Missouri Cider and Vinegar Works. It employed fifty people, more than twice as many as the flour mill, and produced 200 barrels a day or 100,000 gallons a year.

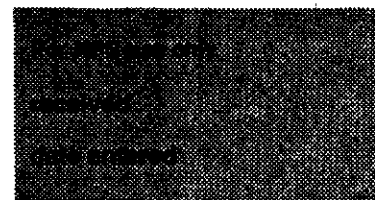
In 1880 Wirick was among the incorporators of a paper mill. Using machinery brought from the Moreau Paper Mill of California, Missouri, the Clarksville mill was soon producing 24 to 26 tons per week. This amount "not only greater than the stockholders had estimated, also astonished mill owners elsewhere."<sup>6</sup> Wirick succeeded S. A. Drake as president, while Henry S. Carroll was treasurer and John M. Clifford, the brother of B. P. Clifford, was secretary. In its day, the Clarksville mill was the only paper mill in the state. Wirick also purchased the Imperial Mill, from Clifford, Roberts & Co., in 1885. At that time it was producing 250 to 275,000 bushels of wheat a year. Wirick's achievements were summarized by The History of Pike County: "Although Mr. Wirick commenced business in meager circumstances, he has by judicious management, as well as purchases, accumulated a considerable amount of property, and has at the same time proved himself a great public benefactor."<sup>7</sup>

Both John Wirick and his wife Mary, called Mollie, were active in the social life of Clarksville. He was a member of the local lodge of the United Workmen and "dictator" (chief officer) of the lodge of the Knights of Honor, while she was a founding member (1896) of the Fortnightly Reading Club, one of the three oldest Federated Clubs in Missouri. After John Wirick's death in 1898, she became a reporter for the Clarksville Banner-Sentinel.

Little of Wirick's business achievement is visible today. The paper mill burned in 1894, two years after it had been sold to Columbia Straw Paper Company. The vinegar factory burned in 1905, and the flour mill closed in 1920. After Mollie's death, the Wirick sons Charles M. and J. E. (Ray) sold the house to Frank J. Duvall, who was then emerging as the leading citizen of Clarksville. Two months later, April 18, 1929, he sold it to Roy and Lena Smith Hunter. The Hunters were divorced in 1933, and in 1935 Lena married Duvall, who had been her attorney. He is said to have died in this house. In 1940 Lena Smith Duvall, now Mrs. Herschel Maynard, sold the property to Jim Cooper, a local grocer, and it remained with the Cooper family until purchased by the present owners in 1982.

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Notes

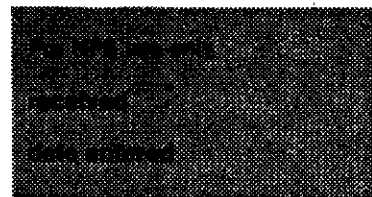
1. The history of Clarksville may be found in two published sources: The History of Pike County, Missouri (Des Moines, Iowa: Mills & Company, 1883); and People Places and Pikers, ed. by Karen Swadron (Pike Co., Mo.: Pike County Historical Society, 1981). Another useful source is Charles V. Clifford, "The Clarksville of Yesterday," an assemblage of articles originally published in the Clarksville Sentinel in 1933 and available in the Clarksville Public Library.
2. This and other transactions regarding Lot 123 are summarized in a title abstract held by the present owners of the property.
3. Some of these are shown in Your Guide to a Walking Tour of Clarksville Missouri ((n. p.: n. d.; possibly Clarksville: Calumet Historical Society, c. 1976).
4. History of Pike County, p. 571; Swadron, p. 347.
5. History of Pike County, p. 494 and infra.
6. Clifford.
7. History of Pike County, p. 495.
8. Swadron, pp. 162, 279.
9. The history of Cooper's Store is recorded by Swadron, p. 165.

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3. Swadron, Karen, ed. People Places and Pikers. Pike Co., Mo: Pike County Historical Society, 1981.

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Continuation sheet CLIFFORD-WIRICK HOUSE

Item number 11

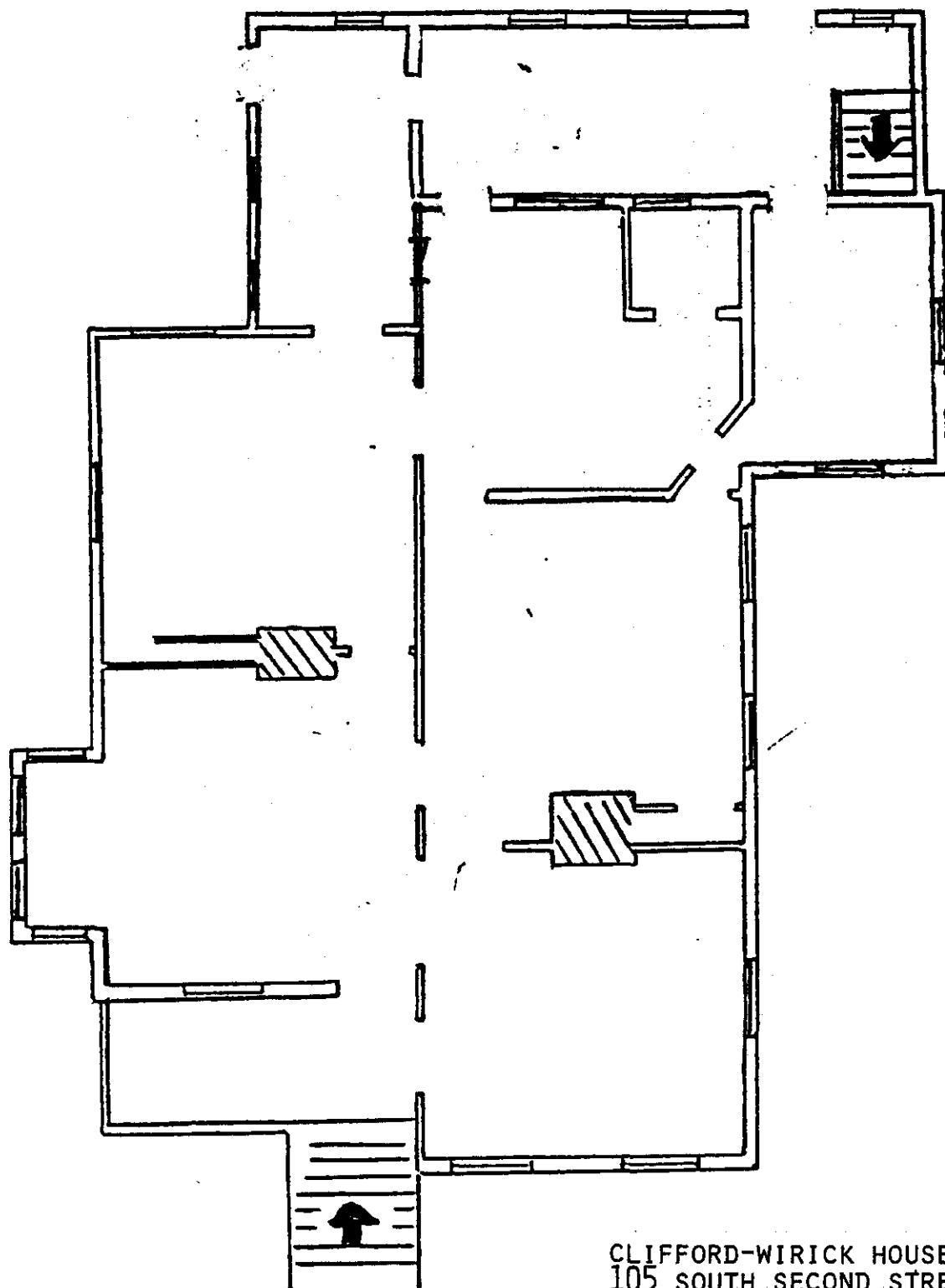
Page 1

- 2) James M. Denny, Chief, Survey & Registration  
and State Contact Person  
Division of Parks & Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City,

May 1983  
314/751-4096  
Mo. 65102







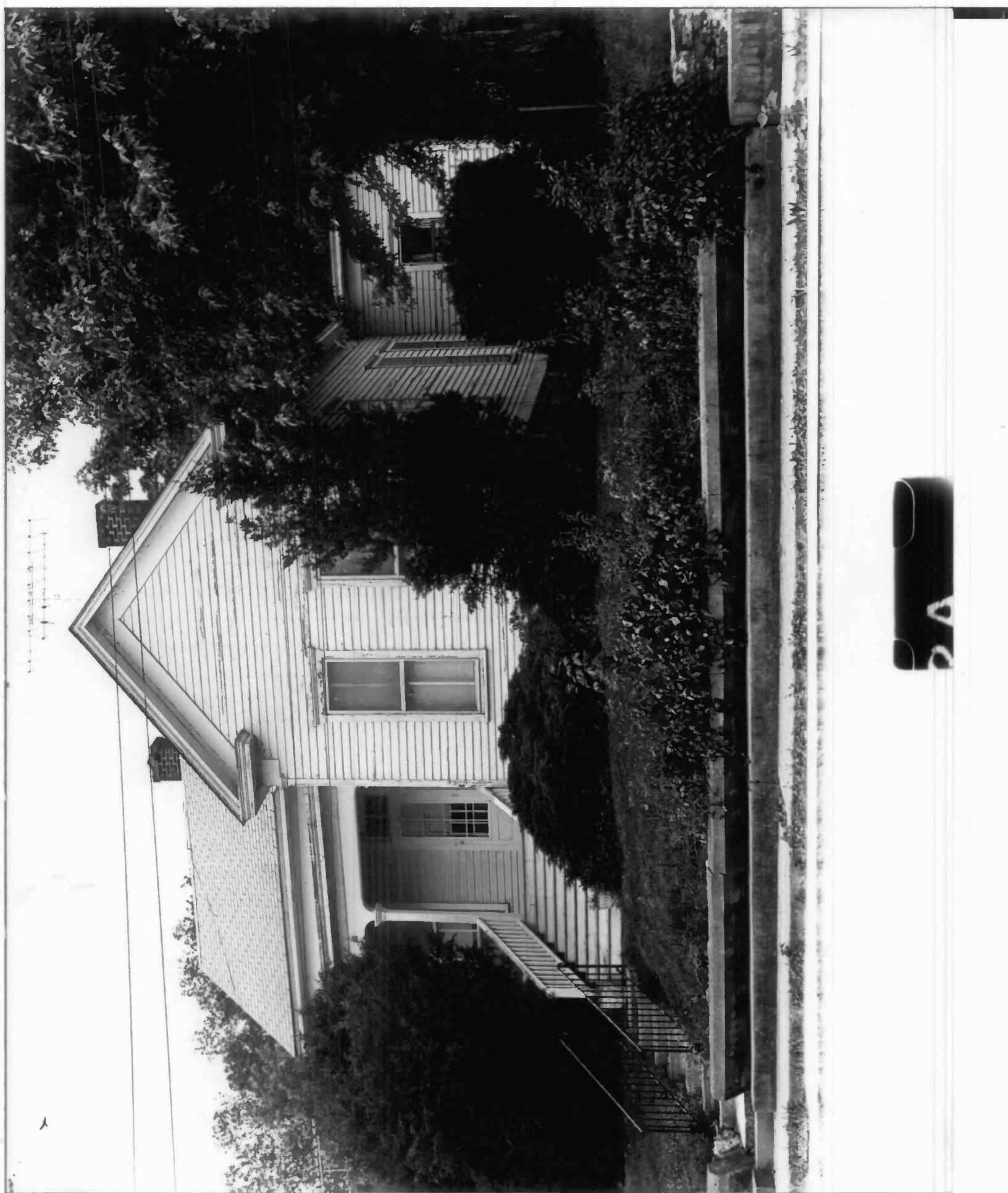
CLIFFORD-WIRICK HOUSE  
105 SOUTH SECOND STREET  
CLARKSVILLE, MISSOURI

CLIFFORD-WIRICK HOUSE  
105 South Second Street  
Clarksville, Missouri

1 of 7

Photog: Esley Hamilton, June 1983  
Neg. loc.: 1169 Ursula Avenue  
University City, MO 63130

View of main elevation from northeast



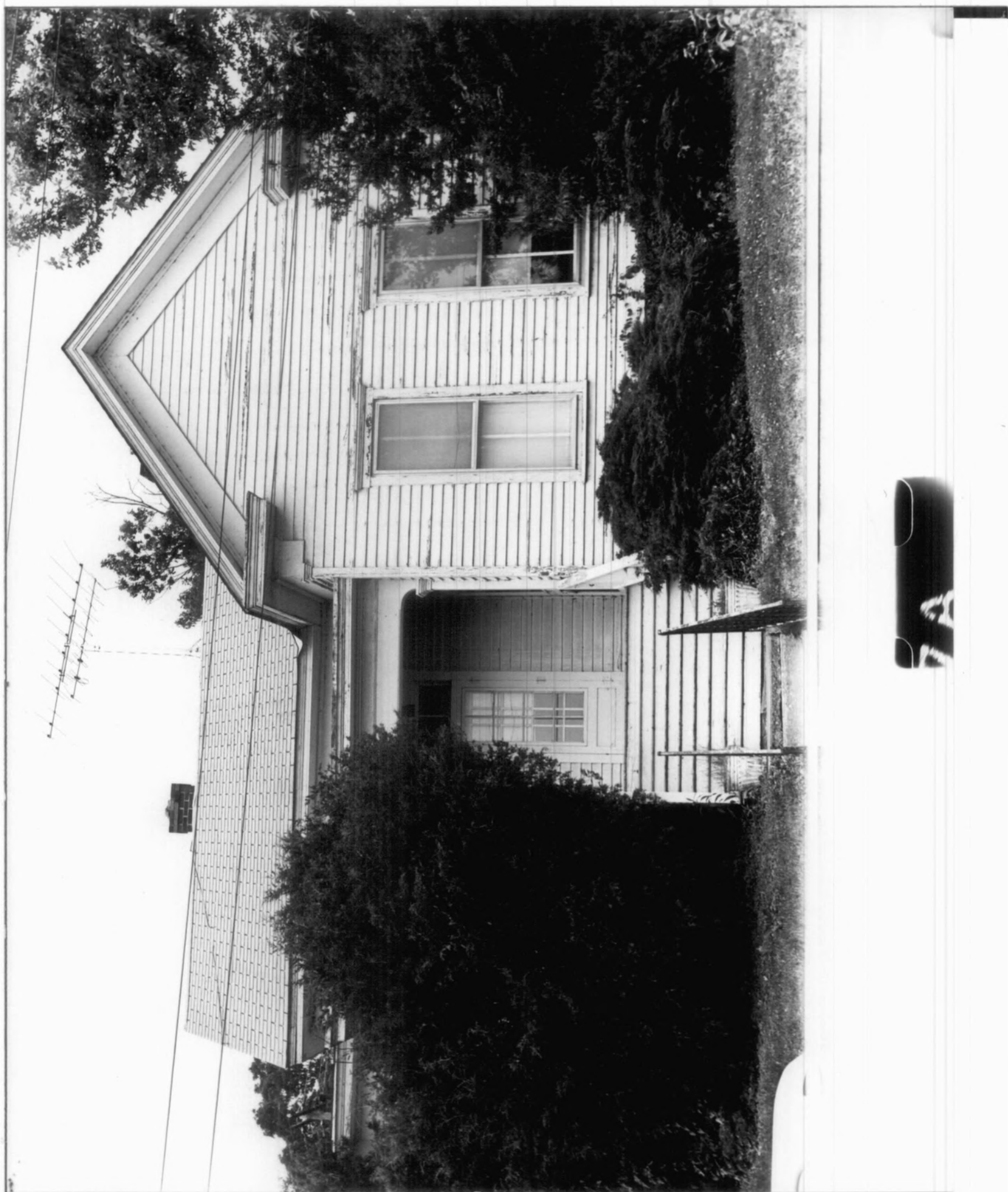
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CLIFFORD-WIRICK HOUSE  
105 South Second Street  
Clarksville, Missouri

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Photog.: Esley Hamilton, June 1983  
Neg. loc.: 1169 Ursula Avenue  
University City, MO 63130

View of main elevation from east



CLIFFORD-WIRICK HOUSE  
105 South Second Street  
Clarksville, Missouri

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Photog.: Ealey Hamilton, June 1983  
Neg. loc.: 1169 Ursula Avenue  
University City, MO 63130

South side of house from southeast





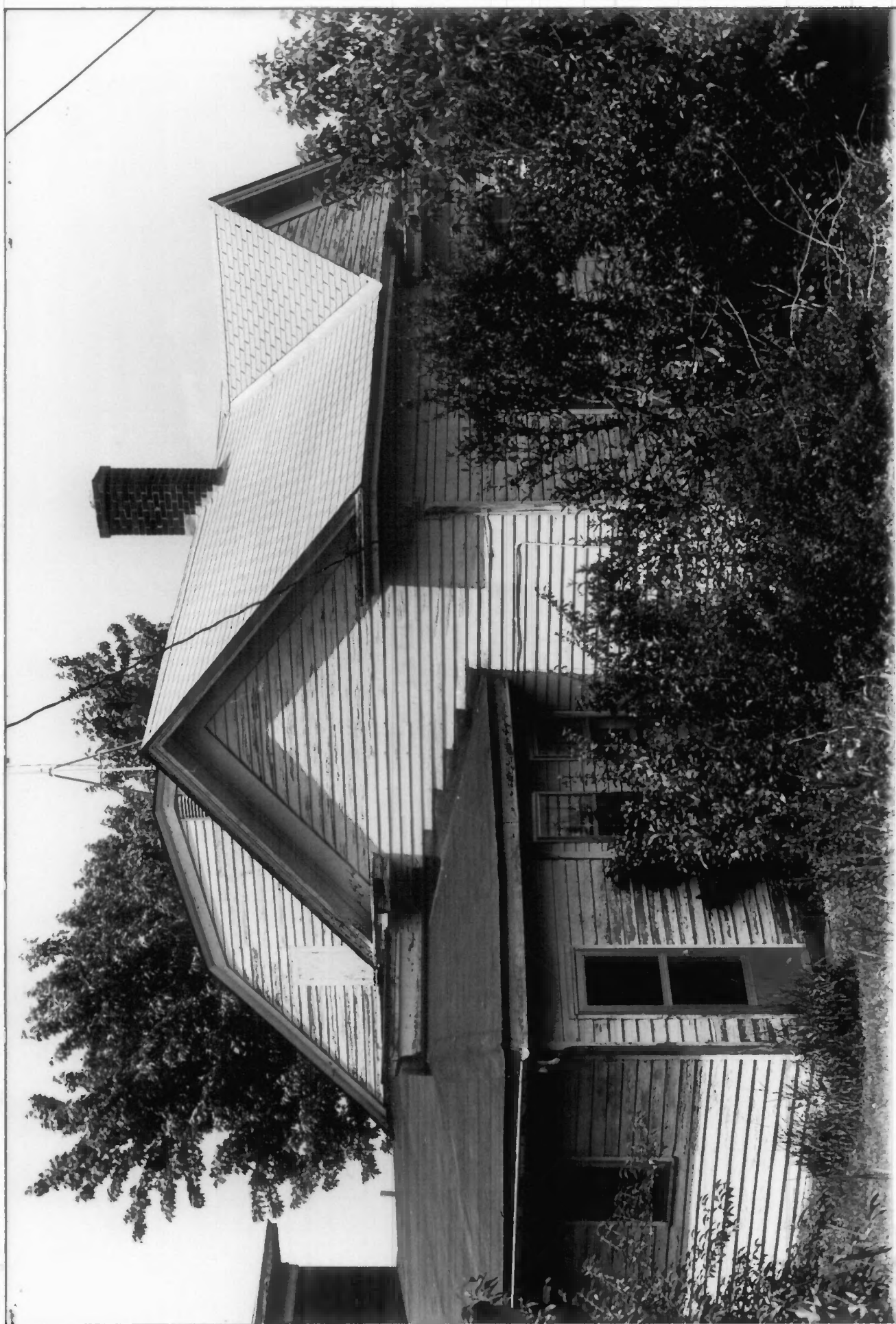


CLIFFORD-WIRICK HOUSE  
105 South Second Street  
Clarksville, Missouri

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Photog.: Esley Hamiltten, June 1983  
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View from southwest showing enclosed porch  
and gambrel roof addition



CLIFFORD-WIRICK HOUSE  
105 South Second Street  
Clarksville, Missouri

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View of interior: northwest corner of  
southeast parlor



CLIFFORD-WIRICK HOUSE  
105 South Second Street  
Clarksville, Missouri

Photog.: Esley Hamilton, June 1983  
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Detail of fireplace in southeast parlor



CLIFFORD-WIRICK HOUSE  
105 South Second Street  
Clarksville, Missouri

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Photog.: Esley Hamilton, June 1983  
Neg. loc.: 1169 Ursula Avenue  
University City, MO 63130

View of interior: east wall of Dining Room



